

February 2020

## Hay Meadow's Friend or Foe?

Howdy everyone! I hope you've made it through winter well. We aren't out of the woods yet, but like the groundhog I think we are in for an early spring. For this month's newsletter I wanted to share information regarding annual ryegrass in hay meadows. The information below was authored by AgriLife Forage Extension Specialist, Vanessa Corriher-Olson. It was originally published in her weekly newsletter, Forage Fax which you can subscribe to. I hope you find the information useful as we head into the spring growing season and summer hay season!

**Annual Ryegrass**...a cool season annual forage often utilized by livestock producers for winter grazing. However, it's often deemed an enemy of many a hay producer in East Texas. Volunteer annual ryegrass can be common in hay meadows. Winter rainfalls can promote seed germination and seeds can survive for multiple years in our soils. Later maturity of annual ryegrass can delay or prevent our warm season perennial forages (i.e. bermudagrass or bahiagrass) from breaking dormancy in April/May therefore delaying our initial hay cutting.

### So how do we manage this unwanted ryegrass? We have several options:

- ♦ **Graze it.** If your hay meadow happens to be fenced as well as have a source of water, grazing can be an excellent way to utilize the high-quality forage as well as remove it from the meadow.
- ♦ **Bale it.** Harvesting ryegrass for baleage or a dry hay is an option. Baleage or haylage is forage baled at 50 to 60% moisture. It is then preserved in an air-tight plastic wrap (single bales or one long tube). This requires specialized equipment and diligence in maintaining the integrity of the plastic wrap. {[See Arkansas Publication for More Information](#)} Harvesting for a dry hale product can be tricky during years we have ample spring rainfall.
- ♦ **Spray it.** Use of herbicides to control annual ryegrass is probably the most common method practiced. Prowl H<sub>2</sub>O (pendimethalin) is a pre-emergent herbicide labeled for dormant bermudagrass and bahiagrass pastures and hay meadows. Treatments should be applied prior to rainfall, to enhance soil incorporation and herbicide activation. Glyphosate (active ingredient in Roundup, etc.) and Pastora (nicosulfuron + metsulfuron) are two post emergent herbicide options. As with any herbicide application timing is critical along with following label directions. Ideally for control, ryegrass needs to be sprayed when plants are less than 6 inches in height in the fall. Annual ryegrass is generally susceptible to postemergence herbicides in early winter prior to freezing temperatures and before seedhead emergence. Unfortunately for bahiagrass growers there are no selective herbicides available for post emergence control of annual ryegrass. Spot treatments of glyphosate are recommended in bahiagrass for control. **For rates and any restrictions refer to product labels.**

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- ◆ **Out compete it.** Maintaining some substantial bermudagrass/bahiagrass stubble height (>4”) could provide some shade that could reduce ryegrass seed germination. This may not provide 100% control however competition can help to reduce undesired plant growth. Maintaining a higher stubble height can also be beneficial for the warm season perennial future growing season. Higher stubble height means more substantial root structure to capture deeper soil moisture and nutrients.

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Quad County Urban/Turf/Garden Soil Testing Campaign**

Proper soil nutrients are key in the success of a thriving lawn and garden. Starting with a soil test is the most important step to determining the amount of fertilizer or amendments needed each year. Homeowners and gardeners should consider soil testing as an investment in this year’s turf and garden, because the correct amounts and timing of fertilization can greatly enhance quality and growth.

Homeowners and gardeners in the Austin, Colorado, Fayette and Washington County area are encouraged to take part in the Urban, Turf, and Garden Soil Testing Campaign from January 15th thru February 28<sup>th</sup>. Soil samples submitted during this time frame will be \$8.00 for a routine analysis and \$15.00 for a routine analysis including micro-nutrients. Residents of Colorado County may bring their samples to the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office located at 316 Spring Street in Columbus. Soil sample bags and forms are available at the office. Please note that these samples are only for lawns/gardens. No pasture samples will be accepted for this campaign.

### **Wharton County CEU Pesticide Recertification Program**

The Wharton County Office of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension will hold their annual 5-CEU program on Thursday, February 13, 2020 at the Wharton County Fairgrounds – Crescent Hall in Crescent, TX. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. Program begins at 9:00 a.m. 2-IPM, 1-Laws and Regulations, 1-Drift Minimization, and 1 General CEU have been applied for through the Texas Department of Agriculture. Topics and presenters include: TDA Pesticide Laws and Regulations – Melissa Barton; Livestock Diseases, Insects, and Parasite – Dr. Tom Hairgrove; Weed and Brush Control – Corrie Bowen; Wildlife Damage Control – Dr. Aaron Sumrall; Minimizing Drift and Avoiding Temperature Inversions – Greg Baker. Cost is \$35.00 payable to the Wharton County Row Crops Committee. A lunch meal is included. Please register by February 12, 2020 through the AgriLife Extension Wharton County Office at 979-532-3310, or download a flyer and registration form online at <http://wharton.agrilife.org>

### **Colorado County Beef and Forage Educational Program**

The Colorado County Beef and Forage Committee is pleased to announce it’s annual 5 Hour Educational Program on Friday, February 28th! Pending approval from TDA, we are hoping to offer 5 continuing education units for licensed private applicators. Please see the attached flyer on the next page. Don’t forget to RSVP for a discounted registration fee!

**Our office will be closed on Monday, February 17th in observance of Presidents Day.**

Laramie Naumann- Colorado County Extension  
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(979) 732-2082

# TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

## 2020 Colorado County Beef and Forage Educational Program

Sponsored by the Beef and Forage Committee of Colorado County

**Friday, February 28th, 2020**

**Colorado County Fairgrounds - Exhibit Hall**

1146 Crossroads Boulevard, Columbus, TX 78934

**(Pre-Register by February 21st, 2020) CALL: 979-732-2082**



**Registration: 8:00 a.m. — 8:30 a.m.**

**Program: 8:30 a.m. — 3:00 p.m. LUNCH WILL BE CATERED**

**Fee: \$25.00 pre-registration**

**\$30.00 at the door**

### **Topics Include:**

- \*Weed Resistance
- \*Invasive Species Management
- \*Sprayer Equipment and Calibration
- \*TDA Laws & Regulations
- \*IPM of Livestock Pests and Vector Borne Diseases


**Private Pesticide Applicators  
will receive 5 continuing edu-  
cation units (CEUs) pending  
approval from TDA.  
No Structural Credits Offered.**

Texas A&M Agrilife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in any Extension activity, are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office (979-732-2082) for assistance 5 days prior to the activity.

**Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.**

Sincerely,



**Laramie Naumann**

**County Extension Agent—Ag/Natural Resources—Colorado County**

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**979-732-2082**

**[colorado.agrilife.org](http://colorado.agrilife.org)**

*Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office at (979) 732-2082 ten (10) days prior to the meeting to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made.*